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October 31, 1960

Dr. Lawrence Dunkelman
Goddard Space Flight Center
Anacostia Naval Station
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Doctor Dunkelman:

I was sorry to learn that we did not succeed in getting you to come out here but perhaps we can remedy this at some later date.

I am looking forward to discussing some of our problems with you in person but I am afraid the next proposal I can make to you may not be entirely suited to your convenience. I will have to come into Washington for a meeting all day on November 15-16 and am now planning to take United 804 to arrive at 4:10 p.m. at Baltimore, November 14. So far, I have not planned anything else for the remainder of the afternoon and evening and if there were some way that I could meet you late that day, I would appreciate it very much. I would be happy to meet you anywhere between the Baltimore Airport and wherever it is that you are working at the present time.

While working with the Vidicon system at threshold light intensities, I have repeatedly noticed a great increase in sensitivity during transient adjustments of the target voltage. Is this a well known phenomenon and in any event can you suggest whether there might be some systematic way of taking advantage of it to increase the sensitivity of the vidicon tube? While the new developments in image intensification might very well supersede any tricks of this sort, a bird in hand might let us get ahead with some work now that would otherwise have to be delayed until the more sophisticated instruments are actually available.

George Derbyshire at the Space Science Board will know my itinerary and where I am staying even before I do in the event it comes up that you would like to contact me after I have reached my room in Washington. If I have not heard from you sooner, I will also inquire at the United Airlines desk at Baltimore Airport (Friendship).

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics